

## Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 230555Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5436

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, TW, ETRN

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR TOSHIO URABE CHOSEN FOR TAIPEI POST

REF: A) TOKYO 13166; B) TOKYO 13426; C) TAIPEI 6449

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS CHOSEN AMBASSADOR TOSHIO URABE, SLATED TO RETIRE IN NOVEMBER, TO HEAD AND UPGRADE ITS REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI.  
END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, FONOFF CHINA DIV DEP DIRECTOR OGURA INFORMED US TODAY THAT AMBASSADOR TOSHIO URABE HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO HEAD JAPAN'S EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION IN TAIPEI AS REPLACEMENT FOR MINISTER ITO. URABE WILL RETIRE FROM FOREIGN SERVICE AT END OF NOVEMBER AND TAKE UP POST IN TAIPEI AROUND DECEMBER 10. BORN 1912, URABE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO KENYA 64-67, HUNGARY 68-69, AND PHILIPPINES 69-74. HE IS CURRENTLY WITHOUT SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT IN MINISTRY.

2. IN NAMING URABE, OGURA SAID GOJ WISHED TO STREAMLINE AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH TAIPEI. URABE IS "NEUTRAL" CHOICE INASMUCH AS HE HAS NO PREVIOUS CONNECTIONS WITH ROC NOR DOES HE HAVE ANY PRONOUNCED POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS IN JAPAN. ALTHOUGH SENIOR IN RANK TO AMBASSADOR OGAWA IN PEKING, FONOFF DOUBTS PRC WILL STRENUOUSLY PROTEST  
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ASSIGNMENT OF URABE SINCE "PEKING ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF

EXCHANGE ASS'N IN NEGOTIATIONG EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS".

3. ALTHOUGH MATTER WILL BE DECIDED BY URABE, OGURA SAID A YOUNGER POLITICAL OFFICER WHO SPEAKS MANDARIN MAY BE CHOSED TO ASSIST URABE RATHER THAN OFFICER OF COUNSELOR RANK. OGURA DESCRIBED URABE AS "VERY POLITICAL HIMSELF". EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EXCHANGE ASS'N AND US EMBASSY COULD MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES IN TAIPEI, TO WHICH OGURA REPLIED THAT URABE WAS "VERY ACTIVE AND SOCIAL" AND WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US EMBASSY TAIPEI.

4. FONOFF DOES NOT EXPECT TAIPEI'S SENIOR REP, MA SHU-LI, TO BE CHANGED SINCE HE ALREADY ENJOYS CLOSE TIES WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO.

5. COMMENT: COMMUNICATIONS GAP BETWEEN TAIPEI AND TOKYO EVIDENT DURING CIVAIR IMBROGLIO THIS SPRING CONVINCED GOJ THAT A POLITICAL REP WAS REQUIRED IN TAIPEI. ALTHOUGH NOT LINKING URABE'S APPOINTMENT DIRECTLY TO ATTEMPT TO RESTORE CIVAIR TIES WITH TAIWAN, OGURA SAID UPGRADING EXCHANGE ASS'N, VISIT BY LARGE LDP DIET DELEGATION FOR CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY, AND APPARENT SUCCESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING ON SHIPPING AGREEMENT WHICH WILL NOT OFFEND TAIPEI (SEPTTEL), COLLECTIVELY MAY IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN TOKYO AND TAIPEI AND PERMIT SUBSEQUENT TALKS WHICH WILL LEAD TO RESTORATION OF AVIATION RELATIONS.  
HODGSON

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